

Denise Moreno Ducheny

California State Senate • 40th District

NewsRelease

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Salton Sea Bill Clears Policy Committee Over the Opposition of Metropolitan Water District

Sacramento – Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny (D-San Diego) successfully passed her bill SB 1081 out of Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on an 11-0 bi-partisan vote. The bill, however, drew opposition from the committee chair Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD).

“This bill protects the past, present and future funding for the Salton Sea,” said Ducheny. “I will continue to fight for the sea and local participation, as long as I am an elected representative.”

The bill calls into question the acquisition of habitat near Blythe referred to as the Travis property. Funds from Prop 50 which were set aside for the Salton Sea, were spent on habitat acquisition without clear nexus to Salton Sea restoration efforts. The legislation will also prohibit future expenditures from this account on items, other than the Salton Sea.

The bill requires local participation by the Salton Sea Authority in the Memorandum of Understanding that Department of Water Resources must develop with the federal government.

At the request of the committee the bill was amended but not substantially changed.

Senator Ducheny has long been an advocate of Salton Sea Restoration and the economic development that can be realized from related activities. Most importantly, she believes that the sea should be seen as a natural resource and a national treasure.

As the Senator representing the sea and the surrounding area, Senator Ducheny fought hard for the Salton Sea during the Quantification Settlement negotiations over the last several years. She is seen as a champion for the sea and an advocate in Sacramento. Her number one priority since returning to the legislature in 2002 has been to restore the sea and promote economic development in the region.

Senator Ducheny represents parts of San Diego and Riverside Counties and all of Imperial County.

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